

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2018 - 7:00 PM

The Meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Opening 7:04 p.m.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Chairperson Rick Feldman read the following Statement into the Record: “The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

Roll Call

- Present: Daniel Almind, Rick Feldman, Craig Geller, James Sawyer, Adam Zimmer. Also present: Gary Masenior, Recreation Director, and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Audience Participation

- Adam Zimmer moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- David Higgins approached the podium as a citizen. He stated he has been at the pool numerous times this summer and commented on how “packed” it has been. A lot of people are enjoying the pool, splash pad and baby pool. The lifeguards are very attentive. He has personally enjoyed the snack bar offerings, especially the meal specials and mozzarella sticks, both of which he feels are great additions to the menu. He encouraged any commissioner who has not been to the pool to go and observe.
- Adam Zimmer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 4 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Adam Zimmer moved to accept the minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting for discussion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 1. Motion passed.
- Gary noted in the Council Liaison section the wording “Well water has never been used in the Splash Pad or the baby pool.” should be added. Susan will add the wording.
- Adam Zimmer moved to accept the amended minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- No New Business

Old Business:

- Brew Fest – Nothing new to report.
- Community Days –tabled – Mark is not in attendance.
- Railroad Avenue property – The subcommittee and other commissioners will be walking the property Sunday Aug 19 at 9:00 am.

Recreation Director’s Report

- 3 pool water tests have been done since the last meeting. All passed with 0 coliforms and 0 platelets. Gary has been adding about ½ inch of water each day. He only uses NJ American water, no well water. Adam Zimmer asked if day pass sales increased with the hot days. Yes, the front desk has brought in between \$400 and \$600 on the recent hot days. Gary said the County Health Department conducted a drop-in inspection even though they had said no additional inspections would be done this season. The pool, concession stand and park all passed as satisfactory which is the highest level. Rick asked if the

playground inspection included the mulch and if it was deep enough. Gary said the inspector approved it. Gary feels there could be more mulch but it has settled over the season and needs to be raked and loosened. Gary reviewed the revenue numbers for the pool – The Front Desk has taken in \$15,092, the Concession Stand \$8 and Aqua Zumba \$958 over 6 classes. There have been 2 rainouts of Aqua Zumba classes. Regarding closing the pool as was discussed at the last meeting – Belvidere and Phillipsburg have not gotten back to him yet. Both Hackettstown and Lopatcong pools handle their closings similarly to ours. If it is not thundering Lopatcong will open but if it continues to rain and attendance is very low the pool manager will contact the Clerk (similar authority as our Recreation Director) to request the pool be closed. If thunder causes patrons to be out of the pool for an hour or more the pool will close. Hackettstown will make their decision at 10 am based on current weather and weather predictions and attendance. When Gary closed the pool on two days he was following the same procedure and policy he put in place opening day last year. Last year the commission agreed with this policy. The policy is that a decision to close the pool will be made between 10 and 11 am based on the current weather and weather predictions. The weather and predictions will be assessed again between 2 and 3 pm and the pool may remain closed or reopen. When he closed the pool because of persistent rain and a 95% chance of thunderstorms all other pools in northern/central New Jersey were also closed. Gary stated we could have a problem keeping the pool open later in the month because 18 of our 20 lifeguards will be returning to college. Susan has contacted area pools and offered their lifeguards the opportunity to work with us. Gary could “shrink” the pool to 2000 square feet using lane lines to reduce the swimming area and therefore reduce the required number of guards. Rick suggested contacting the High School Swim Team coach. Gary said a lifeguard certification was required and we had reached out to the High School Swim at the beginning of the season and got no response. Gary suggested using the on site lifeguard certification/ training next year to attract and retain guards.

Council Liaison’s Report

- No report - Absent

Recreation Secretary’s Report

- Susan will not be at the August 22 meeting. She asked if the commissioners want to record the meeting or hire Ann Kilduff to write the meeting notes. Adam Zimmer moved to hire Ann Kilduff to act as recording secretary for the August 22, 2018 meeting if she is available. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Susan will contact Ann.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – No report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – A weld on the top corner of one soccer goal at Vara field was broken. It looks like someone was hanging from it. James will reach out to some area businesses to see if they can fix it. Susan asked him to get estimates and send her the information to enter a purchase request. A new goal could cost over \$1000. The Borough Manager told James that the auditor and CFO ok’d a way to pay the referees but James didn’t have the information. He has called the manager twice. James need the payment information confirmed at the next Recreation meeting. Gary said the field need to be lined. James went over the weekend but the ground was too wet. He hopes it will be dry enough this weekend. Gary asked if the Taylor Street field is big enough to use. Just for the whistle. They have practice starting at 6 or 6:30 so they’ll need to have lights. James has reserved the Middle School fields for 10 Saturdays at \$2.50 per hour.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Bill Lyons) – No report
- Lil’ Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) –No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – No report.
- Adult (Men’s) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – No report.

- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – There are 24 children signed up for Session 3.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – No report.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- Dan has set up the Instagram account using the email address set up by the Borough Manager. The Instagram site is Washington_BoroRec

Recap

- No recap requested.

Commissioner Comments

- Dan Almind – No comments
- Mark Garrison –Absent.
- Craig Geller – Absent
- Sean Farrington– Absent
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Bill Lyons –Absent
- Joe Pinto –Absent
- James Sawyer –No comments
- Adam Zimmer – No comments
- Gary Masenior – No comments

Additional Comments

- Mayor David Higgins invited everyone to the 1st Annual Washington Borough Fire Department vs Police Department Charity Softball game on Saturday, August 11 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Park Ballfield. The Ladies Auxiliary will be selling food and proceeds will benefit college funds. Dan will share the information on the Recreation Facebook page and Instagram.

Adjournment

- Adam Zimmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **7:52 PM**